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Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters

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12-30-1861

## Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1861 December 30

Thomas W. Cahill

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### Recommended Citation

Cahill, Thomas W., "Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1861 December 30" (1861). *Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters*. 35.  
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Ship Island Dec: 30<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Wife: I have just mailed  
2 letters to you by the Rhode Island  
and I leave at this late hour 9 o'clk  
I'm that she may not sail untill  
noon to morrow so I drop you a  
few more lines you will now if  
this letter gets on Board have  
3 sets of letters by her of different  
dates. The first when she stopped  
here on her way to Texas one I put  
in to day and this one takes its  
Chance; & negroes came on to the  
Island from the main land last  
night they report that the people  
over there are driving all the  
negroes into the swamps many  
miles from the main  
Shore and that they are in  
great trouble many being



in favor of laying down their  
Arms. this afternoon the Steamer  
Water Witch came in towing a  
French War Vessel she had  
run into and knocked her  
Engines all to pieces so she had  
to tow her in and she will have  
to be towed to Key West on Flare  
and for repairs, no news of Har-  
ald yet but I hear that there  
are two square Rigged Vessels  
standing in towards the land  
and I may be him at last I hope  
so for I am anxious to hear from home, we  
have a rumor here that England has  
declared war against us and is  
coming down upon us; This is the  
most confounded place to learn  
any news in though if I had paper  
I would have no time to read them



but we are anxious to hear from home  
Our men are some of them suffering for  
want of shoes and under clothes  
those infernal Quartermasters of  
Connecticut I only wish it may  
come in my way to take a turn at them  
some time, we have a lot of new  
opsacks and Flannels plenty of  
woolen and Rubben Blankets and  
pantaloons but a scarcity of shoes  
Swampers undershirts and Dress Coats  
and Over Coats though I have in  
the Bill of Lading for them and  
expect them with Harvald if he  
Even Comes I begin to think I do  
not care so the goods comes  
Whether he does or not though  
perhaps he is not to blame, Johnny wants  
you to tell his Mother that he is well  
and happy I have another little Mur-  
der named Tom McGuire of Wallace



our Men are beginning to look  
like soldiers since we got our  
New Muskets. and I am really im-  
pressed myself at their decided  
improvement I am working  
hard to get ahead of the  
26<sup>th</sup> and have the Concert to the  
ink we can the men begin to  
think so too we can average more  
kills in the target than them  
now as the main guard fires  
Every morning after guard more  
wishing you must apologise for  
me to my numerous friends particu-  
larly to Patrick Maher and William  
Gentry for not writing as I cannot  
possibly find time to do so it  
is now going on to twelve o'clock  
and to morrow we are to have  
a grand review inspection  
and be mustered for report  
or to Washington for payment  
it certainly seems as if I never  
would get through all the work  
no one can conceive the amount  
of reading, writing and talking  
it takes to handle a Regiment  
like ours the company officers are  
working like beavers the last week  
may out their muster rolls in hopes  
to be able to get them off by the  
Rhode Island but the Command won't  
them Good bye and God bless you  
and grant you a happy new year  
this the Babes for me  
Thos W. Child